

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2404 without my signature.

Although I agree that the Legislature should base their decisions on sound information that is true, accurate and complete, I believe that this bill is the wrong approach. By requiring that only mandatory reports submitted to the Legislature and State Controller contain signed statements attesting to their accuracy, this bill would create and inconsistent system in which some of the information considered in the legislative process is subject to declarations of truth, while the majority of the written material used in the legislative process is accepted as truth without such verification.

The Legislature already has the authority to question the accuracy of a report by requiring those responsible for submitting the report to attest to the accuracy of the report under oath. Given this legislative oversight and the fact that state law already makes it a misdemeanor for a state or local official to submit a written report containing false information to the State Controller, this measure is unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger